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02-05-03

Deposited: February 5, 2003

Ruth Montalvo

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In the event that this paper is late filed and a necessary Petition for an Extension of Time is not concurrently filed herewith, please consider this as a Petition for the requisite extension of time, and to the extent not tendered by check attached hereto, authorization to charge the extension fee, or any other fee required in connection with this paper, to Deposit Account No. 50-1529.

GK-JEN-2074/500347.20059

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Peter Czerney, et al.

Group: 1626

Serial No.: 09/700,072

Examiner: Sonya Wright

Filing Date: February 2, 2001

Customer No.: 026418

For: LASER-COMPATIBLE NIR-MARKER DYES

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

RESPONSE

Sir:

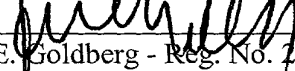
In response to the Office Action mailed January 15, 2003, Applicants hereby elect the claims of Group IV namely, claims 12 and 13 which are drawn to a method for qualitative or quantitative determination of DNA classified in class 536 and subclass 23.1+.

This election is made without traverse and without prejudice to Applicants filing divisional applications to the non-elected groups of claims.

Respectfully submitted,

REED SMITH, LLP

February 5, 2003

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